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City of Barrie

Final

International Relations Committee

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 | **6:00 PM** | **Sir Robert Barrie Room**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by Finance and Responsible Governance Committee on March 5, 2025.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Councillor, J. Harris at 6:01 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 9 -
Co-Chair – Councillor J. Harris
Co-Chair M. Sachkiw
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
LCol G. Johnston
T. Gardiner
A. Jones
B. Sergeant
S. Scully-Pratt
K. Watson

Absent: 6 -
J. Babcock
C. Hassey
W. Hay
J. Massie
L. Palson
J. M. Pigeon

STAFF:
Business Development Officer, N. Gavarre
Director of Economic and Creative Development, S. Schlichter
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard.

COMMITTEE BUDGET UPDATE

Tammie Maynard, Legislative Coordinator provided an update concerning the Committee's 2024 and 2025 budget. Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development provided a follow up on the expenditures related to the 2024 Invest Barrie German Trip.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS/GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM

Co-Chair, Councillor, J. Harris provided an update on the status of the Committee's recommendations related to the Youth Ambassador Program. He anticipates that staff in Legislative and Court Services Department will be reporting back soon to the Committee regarding the Youth Ambassador Program.

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair discussed the youth ambassador program, and an upcoming meeting with representatives of Murayama, Japan to explain what is happening with the program. Mr. Sachkiw outlined several organizations that potentially could be leveraged to host the youth ambassador program.

The Committee asked questions related to financials, risks and liabilities, and impacts to volunteers for the program. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting concerning the Youth Ambassador Program.

Kelly Watson of Georgian College provided an update concerning Niells Brock students from Copenhagen, Denmark attending Georgian College and connecting with students from the Global Perspectives Programs at Innisdale Secondary.

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN UPDATE

Kelly Watson of Georgian College discussed the upcoming partnership opportunities between the college in Barrie and Saginaw, Michigan.

The Committee discussed the upcoming first anniversary milestone of the twinning relationship between Barrie and Saginaw, Michigan.

MURAYAMA, JAPAN UPDATE

Tina Gardiner stated that their is nothing new to report concerning Murayama, Japan.

ZWEIBRUCKEN, GERMANY UPDATE

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning Zweibrucken, Germany. He indicated that a youth hockey team from Zweibrucken, Germany is interested in traveling to Barrie in April 2026 to play local hockey teams.

The Committee discussed the potential of leveraging local hockey organizations about potentially hosting the German hockey team.

HARROGATE, UNITED KINGDOM UPDATE

Bill Sergeant and Kelly Watson advised that three students from Harrogate, United Kingdom are being hosted by Georgian College between February 1 to February 15, 2025, while enrolled in the Change the Now program at

Georgian College. Mr. Sergeant indicated that students from Georgian College will be traveling to Harrogate, United Kingdom in March as part of the Change the Now Program.

Bill Sergeant advised that Jean Maurice Pigeon and himself have been assisting with transportation needs for the Harrogate students during their visit which will also include Niagara Falls.

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair commented that a dinner is being planned at a Barrie Colts Games for these students at the Sadlon Centre

The Committee approved an expenditure up to $1200.00 from the International Relations Committee for transportations costs and dinner at the Barrie Colts Game for the students from Harrogate during February 2025.

ARRAS, FRANCE UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair discussed using his contacts in Arras, France to assist a local group with their travel plans.

SIR ROBERT BARRIE PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning the Sir Robert Barrie Project. Mr. Sergeant commented on the presentation of the framed HMCS Barrie's Royal Canadian Naval Ensign which took place at the City Council meeting on January 15, 2025.

Deputy Mayor R. Thomson thanked Jean Maurice Pigeon and Bill Sergeant for all their work with the Sir Robert Barrie Project and preserving Barrie's history.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

CHAIRMAN